
South Africans are voting in a general election today. The governing African National Congress, led by Jacob Zuma, is expected to win, but the ANC is facing its first serious opposition since the end of apartheid. Peter Biles reports from Johannesburg:

For the past 15 years, the African National Congress has been **the party of choice** for most South Africans. No-one doubts the ANC will **achieve a convincing victory**, but it could lose its two-thirds majority.

The ANC is being challenged by a new **breakaway party**, the Congress of the People, and by the **long-standing** official opposition, the Democratic Alliance. They both accuse the ANC of corruption and **cronyism**.

The ANC leader, Jacob Zuma, who's had corruption charges against him dropped, looks confident and secure. He's now **just one step away from** becoming President. South Africans **have yet to find out** what kind of leader he'll be. But **on the eve of** the polls, Mr Zuma tried **to offer reassurance**. He said **the transition to a new government would be smooth**.

Peter Biles, BBC News, Johannesburg

Vocabulary and definitions

the party of choice	the favourite party, the party that people are the likeliest to vote for
achieve a convincing victory	win by a significant majority
breakaway party	here, a new party whose members are former members of the ANC
long-standing	that has been there/existed for a long time
cronyism	doing favours for friends or colleagues, especially in politics
just one step away from	very close to
have yet to find out	here, don't know yet (but will know/learn once Mr Zuma has become President)
on the eve of	the day before
to offer reassurance	to say things with the intention of making someone else feel less worried
the transition to a new government would be smooth	in the near future, there would be no significant changes either in the government policy or in the structure of the society

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